

Statement

The main features of MBT-Arjun are:

(a) 1400 HP Diesel engine to provide high mobility in all types of terrain.

(b) Low silhouette.

(c) Hydro-pneumatic Suspension System to provide ride comfort and a stable weapon platform for firing capability on the move.

(d) 120 mm rifled gun, firing highly lethal and accurate FSAPDS and HESH ammunition.

(e) A computer controlled Integrated Fire Control system to impart day and night fighting capability with higher accuracy and reduced reaction time.

(f) Armour for all round protection against all types of tank ammunition.

(g) Integrated Fire Detection and Suppression system.

Problems faced by Navy on Tamil Nadu Coastlines

1874. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Navy was facing problems posed by the LTTE on Tamil Nadu Coastlines;

(b) if so, the action taken to induct submarine with land attack capability to influence the primary battle on the land; and

(c) the other steps taken to make the navy strong and a viable maritime power?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The submarines have no role to play in the situation that exists in the Palk Bay.

(c) Modernisation of the Navy and review of existing force level

is an ongoing process, dictated primarily by the threat perceptions and prevailing external strategic/security environment as also emerging technologies.

Private sector participation to make Arms

1875. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to allow private sector to make arms for defence;

(b) if so, the policy in this regard; and

(c) if not, whether the ordnance factories are in a position to supply Advanced Surveillance System Weapon locating radars etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) and (b) Role of private sector is confined to procurement of non-lethal stores required by the Armed Forces and raw materials, semi-finished products, components and sub systems required by Ordnance factories and Defence Public Sector Undertaking both for products based on transfer of technology as well as those developed through indigenous research. It will continue to be associated for such purposes in the quest for self-reliance.

(c) Surveillance Systems and radars are in the manufacturing range of Defence Public Sector Undertaking. Advanced Surveillance Systems and Weapon Locating Radars are not manufactured by ordnance factories.

Fencing around Cantonments in Kashmir

1876. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have asked an Israeli company for erecting hi-tech protective fencing around cantonments in Kashmir;